

REA. 124

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Area	Form no.
C	124

NRIND/MRA 7/19/84



ading \_\_\_\_\_

115 Prescott Street \_\_\_\_\_

Name Edwin Bassett House

ginal dwelling

esent dwelling

p: ☒ Private individual  
Private organization \_\_\_\_\_

Public \_\_\_\_\_

iginal owner Edwin Bassett

TION:

Date 1850

Source Concerning the Past

Greek Revival

ect n/a

ior wall fabric clapboards

ildings garage

alterations (with dates) Queen Anne

porch on south facade and small

one on east facade, and  
probably the bay window.

Moved NO Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 10,805 sq. ft.

Setting Faces south on Prescott on

flat lot close to street.

Recorded by Architectural Preservation  
Associates  
Organization Reading Historical Comm.

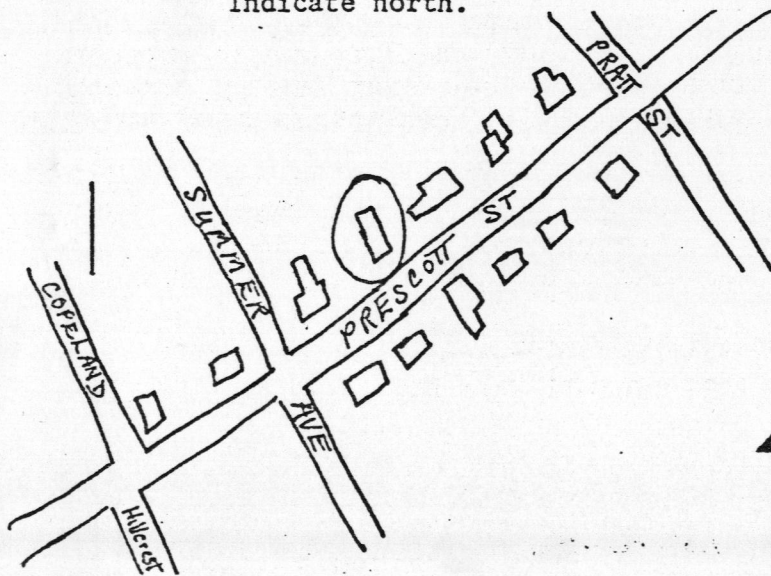
Date November 1980

Date 6/82

UTM: 19/326270/4709340

(Staple additional sheets here)

cross streets and other buildings  
or geographical features.  
Indicate north.



ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

This 3-bay, Greek Revival house has a full pediment in its gable, a feature not frequently found in Reading. The door surround features flat pilasters; a wide cornice board, or frieze, wraps around the house. This house displays the tall, central chimney and 6/6 windows found in the Greek Revival period.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

Prescott Street was laid out from Summer to Washington Streets in 1845, after the opening of rail commuter connections to Boston, by Edward Appleton over the northwest section of the Eaton-Prescott farm. This farm once covered 100 acres and boasted in the 19th century a cider mill.

Edwin Bassett bought this plot in May 1850, and built this house soon after. It was in a second-floor room in this house that the first MacKay sewing machine in Reading was installed. The machine mechanically attached shoe uppers to the soles, revolutionizing shoe production in Reading by turning it from hand-cottage to mechanical-factory manufacturing.

Bassett made infant and children's shoes, which were a specialty of Reading. He built his house next to that of Gilman C. Coggin, another shoe manufacturer, and across the street from that of his wife's sister, Mrs. Thomas Prescott.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1854 map- E. Bassett (Edwin)  
1875 map- E. Bassett  
1889 map- E. Bassett

Wadlin, Concerning the Past, Chapter LXVIII  
Eaton, Genealogical History, p. 534-535  
Bishop, Rooftrees, Chapter 24



REA 124

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

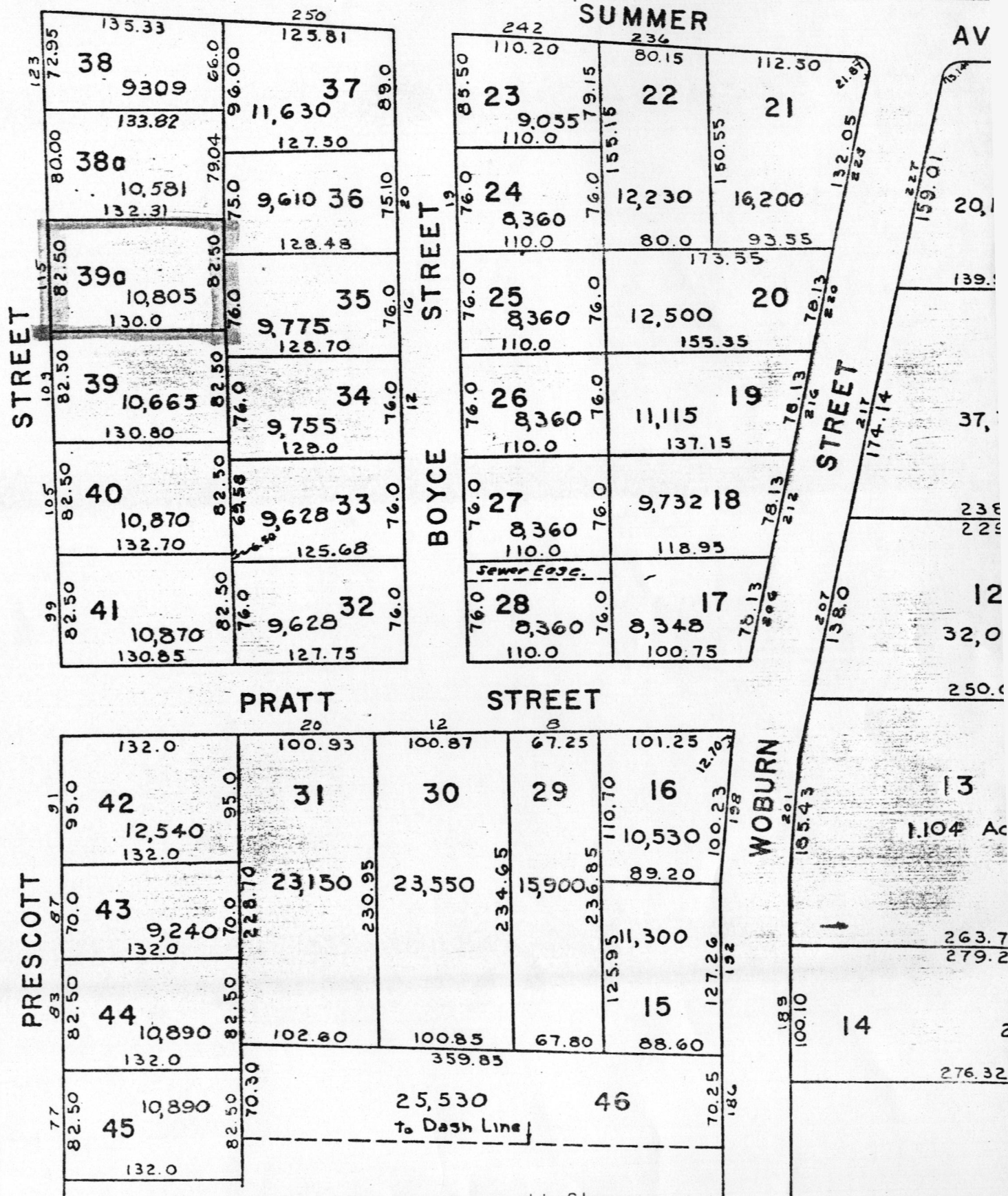
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Reading	C-124
Property Name: 115 Prescott St.	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) for the role it played in the Reading shoemaking industry; (2) for its connection with innovative shoemaker Edwin Bassett; and (3) as an example of a Greek Revival house updated with a Queen Anne porch. It retains integrity of design, location, setting, materials, and feeling and meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register.



#C-124 115 Prescott St.  
 Map 50, Lot 39A  
 1983 Assessors Map  
 1" = 100'



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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

NR  
NR:MPA  
Area CA  
Form no. 124  
NRIND fmpa 7/19/84  
Al-Scotland Hill

Town Reading

115 Prescott Street

Name Edwin Bassett House

Original dwelling

Present dwelling

Property: ☒ Private individual  
Private organization \_\_\_\_\_

Public \_\_\_\_\_

Original owner Edwin Bassett

DESCRIPTION:

Year 1850

Source Wadlin, Reflections

Style Greek Revival

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings garage

Major alterations (with dates) Queen

Anne porch on south facade and

small one on east facade

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage Under 1 acre

Setting Faces south on Prescott on  
flat lot close to street.

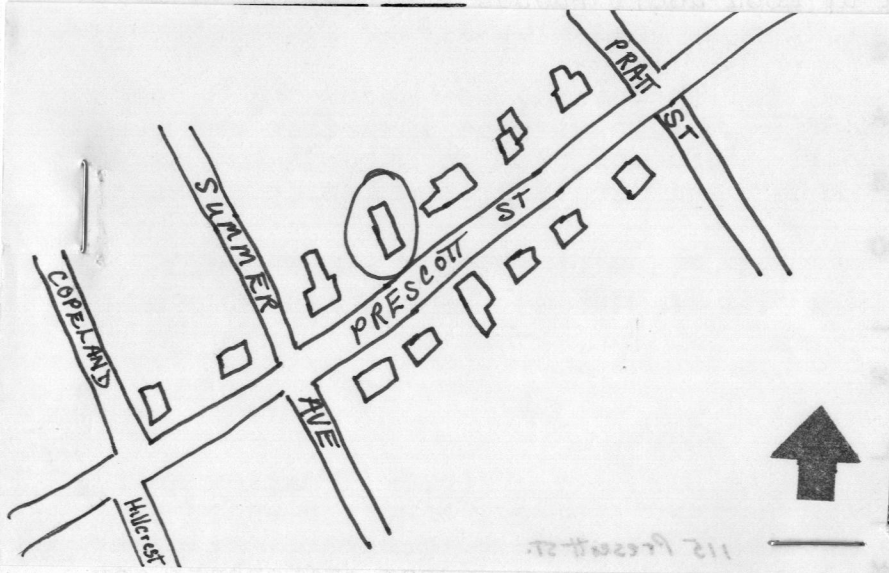
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1889 map- E. Bassett

Wadlin, Concerning the Past, Vol. II.  
Eaton, Genealogical History of the Town of Reading.  
Bishop, Reading's Colonial Rooftrees.